

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 – 19 (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A device, comprising an electrical load, a housing part, an external terminal for supplying electricity to said load, a housingless temperature-dependent switching mechanism protecting said load from overtemperature and overcurrent, respectively, a cavity which is provided in said housing part and in which said switching mechanism is placed, a first and a second countercontact being provided in said cavity, said first countercontact being electrically connected to said load and said second countercontact being electrically connected to said external terminal, said cavity being configured to receive said housingless switching mechanism such that said switching mechanism when being below its response temperature is in direct electrical contact with said first and second countercontacts for electrically interconnecting said first and second countercontact with each other, wherein said switching mechanism is configured as a lossproof unit comprising a bimetallic element and a movable contact element that coacts with one of said two countercontacts, and wherein said switching mechanism comprises a spring element that is held in lossproof fashion on said contact element that coacts with the other of said two countercontacts, said spring element being configured as a spring tongue that at its first end is attached to a guide element and at its second end is joined to a first end of said bimetallic element, which at its free end carried said movable contact element.

21. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 20, wherein a cover is provided that sealingly closes off said cavity after said switching mechanism has been set in place.

22. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 21, wherein said cover is attached to said device in articulated fashion.

23. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 20, wherein the bimetallic element is configured as a bimetallic tongue that at its first end is attached to said guide element and at its free end carries said movable contact element.

24. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 20, wherein said spring element has a retaining extension piece that is attached to said guide element.

25. (Previously Presented) A device, comprising an electrical load, a housing part, an external terminal for supplying electricity to said load, a housingless temperature-dependent switching mechanism protecting said load from overtemperature and overcurrent, respectively, a cavity which is provided in said housing part and in which said switching mechanism is placed, a cover that sealingly closes off the cavity after said switching mechanism has been set in place, a first and a second countercontact wherein one of the two countercontacts is arranged on the cover and the other countercontact is provided in said cavity, said first countercontact being electrically connected to said load and said second countercontact being electrically connected to said external terminal, said cavity being configured to receive said housingless switching mechanism such that said switching mechanism when being below its response temperature is in direct electrical contact with said first and second countercontacts for electrically interconnecting said first and second countercontact with each other, wherein said switching mechanism is configured as a lossproof unit comprising a bimetallic element and a

movable contact element that coacts with one of said two countercontacts, and wherein said switching mechanism comprises a spring element that is held in lossproof fashion on said contact element that coacts with the other of said two countercontacts, said spring element being configured as a spring tongue that at its first end is attached to a guide element and at its second end is joined to a first end of said bimetallic element, which at its free end carries said movable contact element.

26. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 25, wherein said cover is attached to said device in articulated fashion.

27. (Previously Presented) A device as in Claim 25, wherein said second countercontact is arranged on said cover.

28 – 36 (Cancelled)

37 – 38 (Cancelled)

39 – 46 (Cancelled)

47 – 48 (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) An electrical device comprising an electrical load, a housing, an external terminal for supplying electricity to said load, a cavity provided in said housing, a first countercontact that is electrically connected to said load, a second countercontact that is electrically connected to said external terminal, said first and said second countercontact being provided in said cavity, and a housingless temperature-dependent switching mechanism for protecting said load at least from overtemperature or overcurrent, wherein said switching mechanism is configured as a lossproof unit and comprises a bimetallic

element and a movable contact element and is inserted into said cavity such that said movable contact element is, when its temperature is below its response temperature, in direct electrical contact with one of said countercontacts so that said switching mechanism electrically interconnects said first and said second countercontact; and wherein said switching mechanism comprises a spring element that is held in lossproof fashion on a contact element that coacts with the other of said two countercontacts; and further wherein said spring element is configured as a spring tongue that at its first end is attached to a guide element that is inserted together with said switching mechanism into said cavity, and at its second end is joined to a first end of said bimetallic element, which at its free end carries said movable contact element.

50. (Previously Presented) An electrical device comprising an electrical load, a housing, an external terminal for supplying electricity to said load, a cavity provided in said housing, a first countercontact that is electrically connected to said load, a second countercontact that is electrically connected to said external terminal, said first and said second countercontact being provided in said cavity, and a housingless temperature-dependent switching mechanism for protecting said load at least from overtemperature or overcurrent, wherein said switching mechanism is configured as a lossproof unit and comprises a bimetallic element and a movable contact element and is inserted into said cavity such that said movable contact element is, when its temperature is below its response temperature, in direct electrical contact with one of said countercontacts so that said switching mechanism electrically interconnects said first and said second countercontact; and wherein said switching mechanism comprises a spring element that is held in lossproof fashion on a contact element that coacts with the other of said two countercontacts; and further wherein said spring element has a retaining extension piece that is attached to a guide element that is inserted together with said switching mechanism into the cavity.

51. (Previously Presented) An electrical device comprising an electrical load, a housing, an external terminal for supplying electricity to said load, a cavity provided in said housing, a cover that sealingly closes off the cavity, a first countercontact that is electrically connected to said load, a second countercontact that is electrically connected to said external terminal, wherein one of said countercontacts is arranged on said cover and the other of said countercontacts is provided in said cavity, and a housingless temperature-dependent switching mechanism for protecting said load at least from overtemperature or overcurrent, wherein said switching mechanism is configured as a lossproof unit and comprises a bimetallic element and a movable contact element and is inserted into said cavity such that said movable contact element is, when its temperature is below its response temperature, in direct electrical contact with one of said countercontact so that the switching mechanism electrically interconnects said first and said second countercontact; and wherein said switching mechanism comprises a spring element that is held in lossproof fashion on a contact element that coacts with the other of the two countercontacts and further wherein said spring element is configured as a spring tongue that at its first end is attached to a guide element that is inserted together with said switching mechanism into said cavity, and at its second end is joined to a first end of said bimetallic element, which at its free end carries movable contact element.

52. (Previously Presented) An electrical device comprising an electrical load, a housing, an external terminal for supplying electricity to said load, a cavity provided in said housing, a cover that sealingly closes off the cavity, a first countercontact that is electrically connected to said load, a second countercontact that is electrically connected to said external terminal, wherein one of said countercontacts is arranged on said cover and the other of said countercontacts is provided in said cavity, and a housingless temperature-dependent switching mechanism for protecting said load at least from overtemperature or overcurrent, wherein said switching mechanism is configured as a lossproof unit and comprises a bimetallic element and a

movable contact element and is inserted into said cavity such that said movable contact element is, when its temperature is below its response temperature, in direct electrical contact with one of said countercontact so that the switching mechanism electrically interconnects said first and said second countercontact; and wherein said switching mechanism comprises a spring element that is held in lossproof fashion on a contact element that coacts with the other of the two countercontacts; and further wherein said spring element has a retaining extension piece that is attached to a guide element that is inserted together with said switching mechanism into said cavity.